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## **Robots train Soldiers**

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**Killeen, Texas** -- 3d Armored Cavalry Soldiers are receiving innovative training that is intended to prepare Soldiers to react to any combat situation while deployed.

“Soldiers conduct security and reconnaissance patrols daily,” said Dan Rodgers, manager, General Dynamics Robotics Systems. “With our combat Autonomous Navigation System in place, it allows Soldiers to do their jobs safely without being in harms way. All that means is we took tactical vehicles and made them robotically manned rather than Soldier manned.”

GDRS designs and builds ANS and then takes this technology to teach and train Soldiers how operate manned and unmanned vehicles with enhanced capabilities, including greater situational awareness, survivability and combat effectiveness, Rodgers said. With ANS, Soldiers can exercise multiple levels of control over combat and logistics vehicles, from remote tele-operation to full autonomy.

ANS training is quite new to the Army, but at the same time reaching a new generation of Soldiers’ on a level which they can understand and relate too.

“Some of these 3d ACR Soldiers controlled the ANS within 20 minutes after instruction,” Rodgers said. “They had a lot of pro’s and con’s for improvements and changes for ANS.”

Rodgers states the benefit of GDRS is related to spiral development: guides war fighters and technology to guide Soldiers. This refers to remote surveillance and detection of hazards, obstacles, traffic and unauthorized activity reduce risk of accidents and keep Soldiers out of harm's way. Also, new path planning, adaptable ANS technology, enhance day/night situational awareness improves indirect driving, extends visibility across rough terrains, provides 360-degree views and advanced C2 capabilities improve communication and cooperation with other units – convoys, leaders and subordinates.

Robots training Soldiers may not seem like a new concept in military training, but unmanned vehicles monitored by Soldiers is a new technology the Army is working with and Soldiers are excited to learn.

Spc Robert Young, one of Priebe's battle buddies in Bandit Troop, agrees that using robots in combat is a much more effective way of fighting to keep troops safer.

"These vehicles can be used for convoys, security and reconnaissance purposes," Young said. "We can man the vehicles from a safe distance and send them out as lead vehicles to pin point and hit improvised explosive device sites. By doing this it takes Soldiers out of danger and gives us a better chance of coming home to our families."